(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of tea gardens included of Assam under this project; and

(c) the steps taken to boost the same among the small tea growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A pilot project has been initiated to evolve a standard package of practices backed by the Research Institutes. This project aims at understanding the market potential for organic tea and hormonise the certification mechanism. The project is being implemented with financial support from the Common Fund for Commodities and the Government of India through the ongoing development schemes of Tea Board. The project duration is three years and total outlay of the project is 4 million USD of which 1.6 million USD will be provided by CFC partly as a loan — 0.965 Million USD and partly as grant — 0.644 million USD. Under the project three model farms of 100 hectare each in three different geographic locations have been demarcated, one each in Assam, West Bengal and South India for developing the technology, skills and systems of organic tea production. The project also provides for including small tea growers in each region. Accordingly out of 100 ha of the model farm, 10 ha of small holdings in Assam and West Bengal and 20 ha in South India have also been included.

Job losses due to slump in US and European market

889. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of job losses in 283 export-oriented units in the last five months period is estimated at 95866 as survey conducted by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT);

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that these job losses are due to significant slump in the US and Europe markets;

(c) if so, the actions taken by Government to tackle the problem such innumerous job loss situation now and in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Global Financial Crisis and economic slowdown in developed economies, which are our major export destinations, have squeezed the international demand. This impact of economic slowdown is visible in the export sector since October, 2008 both in terms of cancellation/reduced export orders and loss of employment. A sample survey conducted earlier for the period August to December, 08 by the Department of Commerce for 283 exporting units spread over 17 different export sectors, primarily employment oriented, revealed job loss (both direct and indirect) to the tune of 95,866 persons. Sectors which have been affected are Gems and Jewellery, Leather and Leather products, Marine, Textile, Handloom, Carpets, Handicrafts, Automobile, SMEs, Plastics and

Linoleum, etc. The Government and the RBI are closely monitoring both the domestic and international economic developments. Some of the steps taken by Government and RBI to arrest the decline in export growth rate are given in Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ 860 pt (a) and (b)].

Situation in cement industry

†890. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite about 30 per cent increase in the price of cement on the last year, the supply of cement has not increased in the ratio of its demand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether units are still running in loss in spite of rise in its prices;

(d) if so, the number of such units and the reasons therefor;

(e) the prices of indigenous cement in comparison to price of foreign cement and the reasons for difference in their prices;

(f) whether it is also a fact that cement manufacturers have established their monopoly by making a cartel; and

(g) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The average all India retail price of cement has decreased from Rs. 237 per bag in April, 2008 to Rs. 234 per bag in January, 2009. As per data maintained by Cement Manufacturers' Association, the production of cement during the period April, 2008-January, 2009 has been 147.32 million tonnes registering a growth of 7.38% over the corresponding period in the last year.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The data is not maintained by this Department.

(f) and (g) MRTP Commission, a quasi judicial body, is already seized of the matter regarding cartelization by the cement companies.

FDI by companies set up in Dubai

891. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of any *modus operandi* which allows bringing of money in India in the form of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by companies/entities set up in Dubai;

(b) whether there is any yardstick fixed by Government to identify the ownership of entities who bring money in India through automatic route; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.